Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigations

OVERVIEW

- Definitions
- Investigation Steps
- Exercise

Definitions

- **Foodborne Illness *Outbreak*-** 2 or more cases of a similar illness resulting from the ingestion of a common food.

- Remember the two main types of foodborne illness?

Review of Investigation Steps

- **Step 1 - Prepare for field work**
  - May need to recall office personnel to assist
  - FBI investigation kit (supplies)
- **Step 2 - Establish the existence of an outbreak**
- **Step 3 - Verify the diagnosis**
  - Lab results, physician diagnosis

Review of Investigation Steps

- **Step 4 - Define and identify cases**
  - Establish a case definition
  - Identify cases (in addition to the original ones)
- **Step 5 - Perform descriptive epidemiology**
  - Relate to person, time, and place using case histories (AF Form 431)
    - Draw epi curve
    - Did everyone eat the same meal at the same place?

Review of Investigation Steps

- **Step 6 - Develop hypotheses**
  - Initial idea of what happened
- **Step 7 - Evaluate hypotheses**
  - Calculate median incubation period & attack rates
  - Identify suspect meal and where eaten
  - Lab samples of suspect foods

Review of Investigation Steps

- **Step 8 - Reconsider/refine hypotheses**
  - As more info is available, may change case definition and recalculate attack rates
- **Step 9 - Implement control/prevention measures**
  - Remove foodhandlers as appropriate
  - Educate food supervisors and foodhandlers
- **Step 10 - Communicate findings**
  - Report FBI Outbreaks to MAJCOM, AFMOA, IERA (old Armstrong Lab), and USAFSAM

SUMMARY

- Definitions
- Investigation Steps
- Exercise

THE END